



Naval Support Activity South Potomac and Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Support Chemical Weapons Convention Challenge Inspection Training Exercise

Director, Naval Treaty Implementation Program (NTIP), Strategic Systems Programs (SSP), CAPT Bob Vince, presented Commander Beth Hankins, Executive Officer, Naval Support Activity (NSA) South Potomac and Naval Support Facility with a SSP plaque commemorating the twelfth Department of the Navy (DON) Challenge Inspection Training Exercise under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The exercise hosted by NSA South Potomac, was conducted onsite at NSF Dahlgren by NTIP from 11-17 May 2007. Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren was ideal for this Challenge Inspection Training Exercise (CITE) as it is one the largest research and development (R&D) centers in the United States. NSWC Dahlgren Division played a key role in the exercise as the major tenant command. Other participants included the 20th Space Control Squadron Detachment One,



U.S. Navy photo by Doug Davant

Capt. Bob Vince presents Cmdr. Beth Hankins, executive officer of NSASP, with SSP plaque to commemorate event held at Dahlgren.



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Maj. Gen. George Jude Smith (USAR), Deputy Director for Strategic Initiatives, Strategic Plans & Policy Directorate (J5) Joint Staff, briefs Naval Surface Warfare Command's Rear Adm. Archer Macy (second from right) on scope of challenge.

the Joint Warfare Analysis Center and the Regional Legal Services Office, Naval District Washington. The CWC, a multinational international treaty, prohibits the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons by member States. The United States, as a member State under the CWC, is obligated to comply with the requirements of the Convention, including its verification regime. Of the three verification methods, Challenge Inspections are of primary concern for the DON as they are designed to be short notice and intrusive; a combination that could have a substantial impact on DON operations and activities. No such inspection has yet occurred, but to ensure DON readiness, NTIP



conducts these CITEs routinely at Navy and Marine Corps installations and bases. Through these exercises, the DON is able to maintain a level of readiness that proves globally, the United States is in compliance with the CWC.